

KENTUCKY HEALTH BENEFIT EXCHANGE ADVISORY BOARD

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

May 29, 2013

Call to Order and Roll Call

The seventh meeting of the Behavioral Health Subcommittee was held on Wednesday, May 29, 2013, at 1:30 p.m. in the Small Conference Room at the Office of the Kentucky Health Benefit Exchange. Julie Paxton, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m., and the Secretary called the roll.

Subcommittee Members Present: Julie Paxton, Chair; David Hanna, Kathy Lower (by phone), Sheila Schuster, and Marcus Woodward. Gabriela Alcalde, Dr. Rich Edelson, Nancy Galvagni, Kelly Gunning, Stephen Hall, Jennifer Nolan, Susan Rittenhouse, Steve Shannon, and Jordan Wildermuth were not present at the meeting.

Staff Present: Carrie Banahan, Lee Barnard, Miriam Fordham, Brenda Parker, Sherilyn Redmon, and D. J. Wasson (DOI).

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the April 9, 2013, meeting as submitted, seconded, and approved by voice vote.

Update on Exchange Activities

Carrie Banahan, Executive Director, Office of the Kentucky Health Benefit Exchange (KHBE), updated the subcommittee on Exchange activities. The Qualified Health Plan certification administrative regulation was filed on May 15. The KHBE is currently working on the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) administrative regulation and hoping to file it soon. The eligibility and enrollment regulation and the Navigator and agent regulation have been distributed to stakeholders for comments. The goal is to have all the KHBE regulations filed and in effect by July 1. The KHBE contracted with Deloitte to conduct a practitioner workforce capacity study which has been completed. The study indicated that there is a shortage of behavioral health providers in the state, particularly in rural areas. The KHBE has presented the study results to interested parties through meetings and public forums. The report and the PowerPoint presentation are available on the Health Benefit Exchange website. The visualization tool, which has been more difficult to upload, will be available on the website soon.

Report of the Behavioral Health Workgroup

Sheila Schuster reported that the Behavioral Health Workgroup met earlier today. D. J. Wasson, Department of Insurance (DOI), has surveyed the insurers regarding their behavioral health reimbursement policies for licensed mental health professionals and has received feedback from

four out of the five insurers surveyed. The responses received indicate that independent professionals who are licensed are being reimbursed, credentialed, or contracted with by the insurers. The responses also indicate that the insurers do not reimburse, credential, or contract with those professionals that must work under supervision. However, two of the four insurers will reimburse for services provided by professionals that must work under supervision, when a credentialed provider bills for these services. Any change for credentialing by insurers would require a change at the national level, since the credentialing is part of the nationally recognized accreditation standards. Nationally, the criteria are set at a licensed level, independently practicing professional.

Essential Community Providers

The workgroup put forth a recommendation to the Behavioral Health Subcommittee that the community mental health centers (CMHCs) be included in the listing of essential community providers by amending administrative regulation 900 KAR 10:010. The subcommittee noted that this would provide a licensed entity with oversight that could decrease or increase staff based on need and receive reimbursement for services provided. It does not require that the providers contract with the CMHCs, but does increase the potential for reimbursement of services, and insurers are currently contracting with CMHCs. A motion was made to approve the recommendation, seconded, and approved by voice vote.

The comment period for the qualified health plan certification regulation 900 KAR 10:010, ends July 1. Julie Paxton, as chair of the Subcommittee, will submit a comment that the regulation includes the CMHCs as essential community providers. Other subcommittee members were also encouraged to provide comments to that effect.

The members also discussed the workforce capacity study. Members voiced concerns that the data from licensure boards can be overstated, with no part-time or full-time designation, potential duplication of licenses, and no county of practice provided. Members noted that there was a risk of overestimating the number of practitioners. Members discussed next steps regarding the recommendations included in the report. Ms. Banahan reported that the KHBE will meet internally with other personnel from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to develop an action plan for the recommendations contained within the report. The KHBE will need the support of stakeholders, medical providers, legislators, and CHFS staff in working toward bringing these recommendations to fruition. Upon review of the workforce capacity study, the workgroup put forth a recommendation to the subcommittee that the Behavioral Health Subcommittee and necessary workgroups continue to meet on a regular basis and to be a driving force for addressing workforce shortages for behavioral health services with particular emphasis for substance abuse disorder services and to communicate to the Cabinet the availability and desire of the workgroup to participate in this process. A motion was made to approve the recommendation, seconded, and approved by voice vote.

Emergence of substance abuse disorder services as a reimbursable service and results of the workforce study were also discussed. Members noted that some counties showed a more significant need for services than others. Clarifying the workforce issue is very important for individuals attempting to get services.

Other Business

The next Behavioral Health Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 27, 2013, at 1:30 p.m. The workgroup is scheduled to meet at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 27, 2013.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.